

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health Services

**Tuberculin Skin Test or Blood Assay--Results: Negative**

**1. What does a negative test result mean?**

- It can mean that the person has not been infected with TB germs

OR

- It can mean that the person was tested too soon after breathing in the germs. It takes a number of weeks after becoming infected by the germ for the body to react to the skin test. If this happens, the test will have to be repeated again after 10 weeks.
- It can mean that the person's body defenses are weakened and unable to react to the skin test, even though he/she is infected.

Sometimes, the person with a negative skin test may be given medicine to take as a preventive measure if he/she has spent or is spending a lot of time near someone with active TB.

**2. Will the Mantoux PPD skin test or blood assay have to be taken again?**

A person will only need to take the skin or blood test again if there is a risk factor for TB such as:

- Exposure to someone with active TB
- The development of symptoms of TB
- Requirement for employment as a health-care worker



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